

MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE

SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CAHABA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

HOPEWELL CHURCH,

Perry County, Alabama,

ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY,
October 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd, 1877.

OFFICERS:

REV. JNO. L. WEST,....MODERATOR,.....Marion, Ala.
S. C. TRAMILL,.....SECRETARY,.....Greensboro, Ala.
ALFRED LAWSON,....TREASURER,.....Marion, Ala.

MARION, ALA.:
COMMONWEALTH JOB PRINT

1877.



MINUTES.

HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, }
PERRY COUNTY, ALA., Oct. 19th, 1877. }

The Cahaba Baptist Association convened pursuant to adjournment, in her sixtieth annual session with Hopewell Baptist Church, on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1877.

The introductory sermon was preached at 11 o'clock A. M., to an attentive audience, by Dr. W. C. Cleveland, from the xliii. chapter and 10th verse of Isaiah: "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord."

After an hour's intermission, during which time dinner was served and several delegates arrived, having been detained by the inclemency of the weather during the morning, the Association assembled for business. In absence of the former Moderator, Bro. W. C. Ward, the Association was called to order by the Clerk, and opened with prayer by Elder John S. Ford.

On motion, Elder John L. West was chosen temporary Chairman until a permanent organization be perfected.

On motion, the same order of business of the last session of this Association be adopted for the present, so far as practicable.

In response to the call of the Moderator for representation, the letters of the several Churches were delivered and the names of the following brethren enrolled Messengers of the Churches:

ANTIOCH.—Elder R. S. Jones, W. T. Burford, H. C. Thomas.

BETHEL.—Not represented.

BETHLEHEM.—Not represented.

CONCORD.—James Waters, John S. Bolling, R. R. Richardson.

EPHESUS.—Letter and funds for Minutes.

FELLOWSHIP.—Enoch Fagan, S. C. Tramill, John T. Curb, Geo. W. Carter.

HOPEWELL.—Elder John L. West, John Chapman, A. J. Waldrop, D. S. Hogue, S. A. Lide.

MACEDONIA.—Robert Holston, John Poole, Jr.

MARS HILL.—William R. Martin, Preston Ford.

MEDLINE.—L. P. Nickols, Benj. F. Sanders.

MT. PLEASANT.—Elder William A. Bishop.

MT. HEBRON.—Elder John S. Ford, Geo. W. Daniel, P. T. Harris.

MT. ZION.—Letter and funds for Minutes.

MT. GILEAD.—C. J. Stewart, W. T. McCraw.

MACON.—A. D. Lawhorn.

NEW HOPE.—Andrew J. Davis, John S. Davis, Jr.

NEWBERNE.—Benj. F. Pollard, R. D. Faggard, D. J. Faggard.

OCMULGEE.—Willie O. Perry.

OAK GROVE.—E. S. White, Nathan Daniel, W. P. McCollum.

PINE FLAT.—A. Jones Luthur, Robert Farley.

PLEASANT HILL.—J. T. Summers, J. D. Geddie, J. M. Geddie.

PISGAH.—William Farrah.

PROVIDENCE.—Elder W. B. Crumpton, Lewis Johnson, B. F. Moseley.

SARDIS.—W. D. Washburn, S. S. Poole.

SILLOAM.—Dr. E. T. Winkler, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, Elder T. M. Bailey, Alfred Lawson, Porter King, C. C. Huckabee, Cyrus Billingslea, J. B. Lovelace, S. H. Fowlkes.

SELMA.—Dr. W. C. Cleveland, R. C. Keeble. (One day.)

UNION.—H. T. Stringfellow, R. D. Redding, Enoch Stringfellow.

The letters of the Churches were read by the Clerk, assisted by Elder W. B. Crumpton, and Bro. James Waters.

The Moderator then offered an opportunity for new churches to join this Association; whereupon Oak Grove Church, of Dallas county, represented by Brethren E. S. White, Nathan Daniel and W. P. McCollum presented a Petitionary Letter, and being found to be orthodox, was admitted a constituent member of the Cahaba Association by a unanimous voice. The right hand of fellowship was given the Messengers by the Moderator, and their names enrolled by the Clerk.

On motion, the Association went into a permanent organization, when by consent, the vote for officers was taken by acclamation, resulting in the election of Rev. John L. West, Moderator, S. C. Tramill re-elected Clerk, and Alfred Lawson re-elected Treasurer.

Received correspondence as follows:

Alabama Association.—Elder E. F. Baber.

Tuscaloosa Association.—Letter and Minutes.

Mulberry Association.—Letter and Minutes.

Bigbee Association.—Elder H. H. Sturgis (arrived on Sunday).

The Corresponding Messengers were cordially invited to seats in our body and requested to participate in our deliberations.

Returned correspondence as follows:

Tuscaloosa Association.—Elder John S. Ford, Elder W. A. Bishop, Elder R. S. Jones, Elder M. E. Buck, Brethren R. Y. Woods, A. J. Geddie, Robert Holston. Meets at North Port, Tuscaloosa county, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1878.

Union Association.—Dr. J. T. Murfee, Eld. T. M. Bailey, Eld. John L. West, Elder J. P. Poole, Brethren A. D. Lawhorn W. T. Burford, H. T. Stringfellow, Geo. W. Daniel. Meets at——— Church———county, on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1878.

Mulberry Association.—Eld. A. M. Perry, Eld. T. L. Vaughan, Elder W. O. Steyens, Elder J. M. Heard, Elder Carter Tubbs, Brethren C. J. Stewart, J. N. C. Brown, H. G. Snead. Meets at——— Church,———county, on Saturday before the 4th Saturday in September 1878.

Shelby Association.—Dr. J. T. Murfee, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, Elder A. J. Kynard, Brethren R. H. Sterrett, R. C. Keeble, E. P. George, O. H. Perry. Meets at _____ Church _____ county, on Saturday before the 3rd Sablath in September, 1878.

Pine Barren Association.—Dr. W. C. Cleveland, Elder W. B. Crumpton, Brethren Jno. Haralson, Lewis Johnson, E. S. White, D. S. Hogue, C. C. Huckabee. Meets at _____ Church, _____ county, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in September, 1878.

Alabama Association.—Dr. E. T. Winkler, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, Dr. J. T. Murfee, Elder T. M. Bailey, Elder John L. West, Brethren J. W. Hudson, W. C. Ward. Meets at _____ Church, _____ county, on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in Oct., 1878.

Bethel Association.—Elder W. B. Crumpton, Brethren B. F. Ellis, W. P. McCollum, Chas. W. Collins, R. L. Maupin, R. D. Faggard, T. S. Bowen. Meets at Choctaw Corner Church, Choctaw county, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1878.

Bigbee Association.—Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, Dr. J. T. Murfee, Elder T. M. Bailey, Brethren M. W. Hand, S. C. Tramill, Jno. T. Latimer, M. T. Sumner, Jr.—Meets at _____ Church, _____ county, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1878.

Unity Association.—Dr. W. C. Cleveland, Elder I. U. Wilkes, Brethren Porter King, J. H. Burns, B. P. Watson, A. Jones Luther, B. F. Sanders.—Meets at _____ Church, _____ county, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1878.

On motion, Elder E. T. Winkler be recognized the President of the Home Mission Board.

On motion, Elder T. M. Bailey be recognized the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board.

On motion, Elder E. F. Baber be recognized the representative of Foreign Missions.

On motion, Elder John L. West be recognized the representative of the *Alabama Baptist*.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 9½ o'clock Saturday morning. Prayer by Elder T. M. Bailey.

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20TH.

The Association convened at 9½ o'clock, with the Moderator in the chair. Prayer by Elder E. F. Baber, after which the Minutes of preceding part of Session was read and adopted.

On motion, the regular order of business be suspended. That the Delegates of Macon, Concord and Sardis Churches be received. Letters delivered, read by the Clerk, and messengers' names enrolled.

The following Special Committees were appointed by the Moderator:

On Finance.—Brethren D. S. Hogue, Lewis Johnson, James Waters.

On Devotional Exercises.—Deacons and Delegates of Hopewell Church.

On Letters and Documents.—Elder John S. Ford, A. J. Warford B. F. Moseley.

On Arrangement and Nomination of the next Session of the Association.—Elder W. A. Bishop, W. O. Perry, E. S. White, W. R. Martin, C. C. Huckabee, W. T. Burford.

Nomination of Delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention.—Elder T. M. Bailey, Elder W. B. Crumpton, Elder R. S. Jones, Enoch Fagan, A. Jones Luthur, C. J. Stewart, Cyrrs Billingslea, R. D. Faggard.

The Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was read by the Chairman, Dr. E. T. Winkler. On motion, the report be received. Strong and impressive speeches made by Dr. Winkler and Elder Baber, after which the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix A.

The Report of the Committee on Devotional Exercises was read by the Chairman. On motion, the report was received, adopted and as follows: Sabbath School Address on Sunday morning by Elder W. B. Crumpton. Preaching at 11 A. M. by Dr. L. R. Gwaltney; at 2 P. M. by Dr. E. T. Winkler. The pulpit of Siloam Church at Marion (having been tendered the Association by the Church) to be filled by Elder E. F. Baber at 11 A. M. Sunday; by Elder W. A. Bishop Sunday night.

The Report of the Committee on State Missions was read by the Chairman, Dr. W. C. Cleveland. On motion, the report was received. The report was ably discussed by Dr. Cleveland, Dr. Winkler, Elder Bailey, Elder Crumpton, after which the following amounts were pledged by the different Churches and individuals to sustain the Board, and then the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix B.

Siloam Church, \$100; Antioch Church, \$10; Selma Church, \$100; Ocmulgee Church, \$15; Elder John L. West, \$50; Newberne Church, \$5; Providence Church, \$25; Pleasant Hill Church, \$5; Hopewell Church, \$50; Sardis Church, \$5; Fellowship Church, \$25; Newhope, \$5; Macedonia Church, \$10; Medline, \$2; Mt. Hebron Church, \$5; Macon, \$50; Mt. Gilead, \$5; J. Phelan Harris, \$5; Union, \$10; J. Harry Johnson, \$2; Oak Grove, \$10; Amount paid in cash, \$2.30.

NOTE.—The amounts of Siloam and Selma Churches and Elder John L. West were pledged at the State Convention. The amount of Fellowship Church included the amount reported in letter to the Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder John S. Ford.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association re-assembled at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. B. Pool.

The Report of the Committee on Education was read by the Chairman, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney. On motion, the report was received. Eloquent speeches were made in the discussion of the report by Dr. Gwaltney, Dr. Winkler, and Elder Baber, in behalf of Education and our Denominational Schools, the Howard, the Judson, after which the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix C.

The Report of the Committee on Home Missions was read by the Chairman, Elder W. B. Crumpton. On motion, the report was received. After an earnest speech made by Dr. Winkler, President of the Home Mission Board, the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix D.

The Report of the Committee on the *Alabama Baptist* was read by the Chairman, Elder W. A. Bishop. On motion, the report was received. The discussion of the report was opened by Elder W. A. Bishop, followed by Dr. W. C. Cleveland, Elder W. B. Crumpton, C. C. Huckabee, R. C. Keeble.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 9½ o'clock Sunday morning. Prayer by Dr. W. C. Cleveland.

SUNDAY MORNING, October 21st.

The Association convened at 9:30 for devotional exercises. Prayer by W. B. Crumpton.

Sabbath School Address delivered by Elder W. B. Crumpton in his usual, pleasant, forcible and humorous manner. Strongly impressing his attentive audience with the necessity of co-operation in Sabbath Schools, the advantages of having these meetings in all the Churches of this Association every Sabbath, and the great importance of parents attending with their children and taking a part.

The missionary sermon was preached at 11 o'clock by Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, to a very large and most attentive audience, from 2nd Corinthians, 8th and 9th verses: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." The services were continued by taking up a missionary collection, amounting to \$27.20. Morning services concluded with prayer by Elder John L. West.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

The congregation re-assembled after an hour's intermission (during which time the entire congregation was served to a most bountiful dinner) for evening services. Dr. E. T. Winkler preached to a large audience from 1st John, 2nd chapter and 15th verse: "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world." Evening services concluded with prayer by Dr. W. C. Cleveland.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association convened at 9:30. Prayer by Elder H. H. Sturgis. Minutes of Saturday read and adopted.

On motion, the regular order of business be suspended, that Elder H. H. Sturgis be received Corresponding Messenger of the Bigbee Association. The Moderator welcomed Bro. Sturgis, and invited him to a seat in our body to participate in our deliberations.

The continued discussion of the report on the ALABAMA BAPTIST was resumed. Speeches made by Brethren Cleveland, Huckabee, Lawhorn and Bailey. Bro. West solicited new subscribers by approaching each person individually in the congregation, and obtained about twenty-five names for the paper.

The following sisters of the different churches were appointed special agents for the ALABAMA BAPTIST by the Association, believing through their influence and efforts the circulation of the paper would be greatly increased:

Antioch.—Mrs. Martha Williams and Miss Sallie Avery, Greensboro, Hale county.

Bethel.—Mrs. Martha Harris, Centreville, Bibb county.

Bethlehem.—Mrs. A. M. Perry, Centreville, Bibb county.

Concord.—Mrs. I. U. Wilkes, Perryville, Perry county, and Mrs. James Edwards, Radsfordville, Perry county.

Ephesus.—Mrs. N. L. Dobyues, Pinetuckey, Perry county.

Fellowship.—Miss Mary Fagan, Morgan Spring, Perry county, and Miss Nannie Brand, Marion, Perry county.

Friendship.—Mrs. Isham Pounds, Pinetuckey, Perry county.

Hopewell.—Mrs. Annie Moore and Miss Jennie Lide, Marion, Perry county.

Macedonia.—Mrs. James B. Poole, Havana, Hale county.

Mars Hill.—Miss Alice McCauley, Marion, Perry county.

Medline.—Mrs. B. F. Sanders, Pinetuckey, Perry county.

Mt. Pleasant.—Miss Mannie Woods, Carthage, Hale county.

Mt. Hebron.—Mrs. John S. Ford, Aeron, Hale county.

Mt. Zion.—Miss Annie Kennedy, Centreville, Bibb county.

Mt. Gilead.—Miss Annie Kinnaird, Centreville, Bibb county.

Macon.—Mrs. Chas. W. Collins, Macon Station, Hale county.

New Hope.—Miss Mary Lawless, Havana, Hale county.

Newberne.—Mrs. R. D. Faggard, Newberne, Hale county.

Ocmulgee.—Mrs. S. F. Smith, Summerfield, Dallas county.

Oak Grove.—Mrs. E. S. White, Marion Junction, Dallas county.

Pine Flat.—Miss Addie Suttle, Perryville, Perry county.

Pleasant Hill.—Mrs. Mary A. Tubb, Carthage, Hale county.

Pisgah.—Miss Eliza Cosby and Mrs. R. H. Wallace, Perryville, Perry county.

Providence.—Mrs. B. F. Mosely, Cambridge, Dallas county, and Miss Houston West, Cahaba, Dallas county.

Selma.—Mrs. E. D. Billingslea and Mrs. M. L. Beeton, Selma, Dallas county.

Siloam.—Mrs. M. T. Bailey, Mrs. W. H. Fiquet, Miss Lucy Moore and Miss Carrie Miller, Marion, Perry county.

Sardis.—Mrs. W. D. Washburn, Ironville, Perry county.

Union.—Miss Bettie Kinnaird, Greensboro, Hale county.

On motion, the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix E.

The report of the Educational Committee was read by Elder John L. West, (Bro. C. C. Huckabee in the Chair). On motion, the report was received, adopted, and be printed in the Minutes. Appendix F.

Resolved, That the note given by Bro. John D. Moseley for \$4.75 be returned to Bro. Moseley.

Resolved, That this Association increase the fund already on hand, sufficient to educate some young man, either in or out of the bounds of this Association, at Howard College, for the ministry. Earnest and well-timed speeches made by Dr. Cleveland, Elder Barber, Elder Crumpton and Elder Bailey, after which the following amounts were pledged:

Dr. W. C. Cleveland \$10.00; Elder W. B. Crumpton \$10.00—to be paid next Fall; Elder T. M. Bailey \$10.00—to be paid next Fall; Sister E. D. Billingslea \$10.00; Sisters of Providence Church \$10.00—to be paid next Fall; Sister A. J. Worford, of Hopewell Church, \$12.00. Total amount pledged \$60.00.

(NOTE.—The subscription list is still left open, and will be found in the hands of the Educational Committee, who will gladly receive any amount that may be contributed by Churches, members, or friends for this cause.)

Resolved, That the name of Dr. W. C. Cleveland be inserted in place of Bro. W. C. Ward. (By request of Bro. Ward to have his name withdrawn from Committee), that the name of Bro. Alfred Lawson be inserted in place of Bro. H. W. Crawford, deceased, and the Committee stand as last session of the Association and as follows:

Dr. W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman;	
Elder Jno. L. WEST,	Bro. O. H. PERRY,
“ W. B. CRUMPTON,	“ ALFRED LAWSON.

The report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read by the Chairman, Elder Jno. L. West, (Bro. C. C. Huckabee in the Chair). On motion, the report was received. The discussion of the report was opened by Elder John L. West, followed by Elder T. M. Bailey and Bro. C. C. Huckabee, after which the report was unanimously adopted. Appendix G.

The report of the Committee on Letters and Documents submitted.

On motion, the report was received and adopted. Appendix H.

In consequence of the members of the standing Committee on Religious Condition of Churches not attending the Association this session, no report was submitted.

Resolved, That the name of Bro. W. L. Fagan be inserted in place of Bro. H. W. Crawford, deceased, of the second District, the Oak Grove Church be added to the first District, the Churches and Committees constituting the Districts be retained as was at our last session, and that the Chairman be requested to still prosecute this work in their Districts, having meetings at least once in three months. The following are the Churches of the different Divisions:

First District—Concord, Pisgah, Pine Flat, Ocmulgee, Oak Grove, Selma and Providence.

Second District—Fellowship, Hopewell, Newberne, Macon, Mars Hill and Siloam.

Third District—Antioch, Union, Mt. Hebron, Macedonia, Mt. Pleasant, Pleasant Hill and New Hope.

Fourth District—Bethlehem, Bethel Ephesus, Friendship, Medline, Mt. Zion, Mt. Gilead and Sardis.

The following are the Committees of the Districts:

1st District—W. C. Cleveland, Chairman; W. B. Crumpton, I. U. Wilkes and O. H. Perry.

2nd District—E. T. Winkler, Chairman; John L. West, W. L. Fagan and A. D. Lawhorn.

3rd District—W. A. Bishop, Chairman; John S. Ford, R. S. Jones and R. Y. Woods.

4th District—A. M. Perry, Chairman; Carter Tubb, J. S. Bolling and D. B. Snead.

The report of the Treasurer submitted. On motion, the report was received and adopted. Appendix I.

The report of the Committee on Nomination of Delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention submitted. On motion, the report be received and adopted.

The following nominations made:

Eld. Jno. S. Ford,	Bro. S. C. Trammill,	Bro. C. C. Huckabee,
“ Jno. L. West,	“ Alfred Lawson,	“ D. S. Hogue,
“ I. U. Wilkes,	“ B. F. Ellis,	“ W. L. Fagan,
“ W. A. Bishop,	“ Lewis Johnson,	“ J. T. Latimer,
“ J. B. Poole,	“ R. C. Keeble,	“ W. O. Perry,
“ A. J. Kynard,	“ W. R. Martin,	“ C. W. Collins,

The Convention will meet in Talladega on Thursday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1878.

The report of the Committee on Arrangement and Nomination of the next session of the Association was submitted. On motion, the report was received. After a pleasant discussion by the delegates of Fellowship and Siloam Churches, as to the place of the next session, the report was amended, then adopted, and as follows:

Resolved, That the next session of this body be held with Si-loam Church, Marion, convening at 11 A. M., on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1878. Elder W. B. Crumpton to preach the introductory sermon, Elder I. U. Wilkes, alternate. Dr. W. C. Cleveland to preach the Missionary sermon on Sunday at 11 A. M. Elder John L. West, alternate. Sabbath School Addresses Sunday morning, by Elder T. M. Bailey and Bro. Jon. Haralson.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. BISHOP,	} Committee.
Chairman ;	
W. O. PERRY,	
E. S. WHITE,	
W. R. MARTIN,	
C. C. HUCKABEE,	
W. T. BURFORD,	

The report of the Committee on Finance was submitted. On motion, the report was received and adopted. Appendix J.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:

On Home Missions—Dr. E. T. Winkler, W. C. Ward and E. S. White.

On Foreign Missions—Elder John S. Ford, Elder T. M. Bailey and R. Y. Woods.

On State Missions—Elder W. B. Crumpton, Elder John L. West and Elder R. S. Jones.

On Sunday Schools—Elder I. U. Wilkes, Porter King, Jon. Haralson.

On Education—Dr. J. T. Murfee, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney and F. H. Hawks.

On Religious Condition of Churches—Elder W. A. Bishop, Dr. E. T. Winkler, Dr. W. C. Cleveland, Elder A. M. Perry.

On The Alabama Baptist—Dr. W. C. Cleveland, C. C. Huckabee, A. D. Lawhorn.

On Widows and Orphans of Deceased Ministers—Elder W. A. Bishop, Enoch Fagan and John T. Latimer.

Resolved, That a collection be taken up for Sister Summers, widow of our deceased brother, Elder John E. Summers, and that Bro. Enoch Fagan be constituted a Committee to receive all funds contributed, and to pay the same over. Eight dollars and seventy-five cents were collected in cash.

Resolved, That the money collected on Sunday for the cause of Missions be equally divided between the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby gratefully tendered Hopewell Church and community, for the very hospitable entertainment they have given the delegates and visitors of this Association

Resolved, That this Association do now adjourn to meet with Siloam Church, Marion, at 11 o'clock A. M., on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1878.

While singing that beautiful hymn—

“Blest be the tie that binds—”

the delegates and brethren gave to each other the parting hand in token of the brotherly love that unites us earthly, and in hope of the eternal re-union in Heaven. Closing prayer by Elder R. S. Jones, and then the Moderator declared the Association adjourned.

S. C. TRAMILL, Clerk.

JNO. L. WEST, Moderator.

APPENDIX A—REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Our Foreign Missionary Stations are planted in China, Italy, and Western Africa. In each of these regions God has blessed our labors, by giving us access to enlarging fields of pious usefulness, and by awakening a lively spiritual interest in the hearts of the people whom our missionaries address. Especially encouraging is the prospect in the Imperial City where Paul preached the Gospel, and where for so many centuries the Papal power has had absolute sway.

Our Missions have, however, been embarrassed by two circumstances:

1. The enlargement of the field, for which we have so much occasion for gratitude, necessitates more liberal contributions than our Churches have been wont to give. The Divine blessing brings new responsibilities in its train. Either we must give more generously, or else leave our Board and Missionaries to struggle with debt,—unable to follow the call which bids God's people go forward to new enterprises and successes.

2. An unusually large number of our Missionaries has been broken down by exposure and excessive toil; not less than eight of them have been re-called during the past year. Bro. David, of the African Mission, is now in England, wasted by chronic and long neglected disease. Brethren Hartwell and wife, Williams and wife, and Simons and the Misses Moon have all been compelled to leave China for a season. May God restore these beloved Missionaries to health and enable them speedily to return to the field in which they have so zealously and effectively labored!

We are unwilling to close this report without affectionately and urgently calling the attention of our brethren to the fact that the prosperity, the influence and the growth of our Churches largely depend upon the fidelity with which the evangelic work is prosecuted. We would remind them that the spirit of missions is the Spirit of Christ, and that our interest in his salvation may be justly doubted if we put forth no effort to communicate his Gospel to a

dying world. And we would point to the reflex influence of Foreign Missions upon our Denominational vigor and expansion; they have necessitated those great alliances which, establishing a vital bond of union amongst us, elevating and enlarging the aims of our people, and maintaining a generous rivalry and a Christian sympathy and activity in our entire brotherhood have by the blessing of God secured so many accessions to our numbers and such signal triumphs to our principles during the last half century. We need a new consecration to the cause of Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

E. T. WINKLER, Chairman.

APPENDIX B--REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Mission Board in its report to the Convention, suggested that it could best accomplish its work by dividing the State into districts, each district including four or more Associations, and by appointing good men, whose salaries are to be secured in their respective fields, to work as evangelists.

The Convention opposed the suggestion, and appointed Rev. T. M. Bailey Corresponding Secretary, and secured his salary immediately, thereby enabling him to devote his time exclusively to the enlarging of the work.

Since the meeting of the Convention, the Board has, as far as practicable, districted the State, and is now in correspondence with brethren, attempting to secure evangelists for the several districts. Some of them have accepted, and will soon enter upon the work assigned them. It is highly probable that before the first of January next, the Board will have at least six good men laboring in its employ.

The work of the Board has taken hold of the hosts of the people, and was never so hopeful; never so full of promise. The Associations are responding to the appeals of the Board with gratifying liberality. The district to which this Association belongs is composed of the Cahaba, Unity, Alabama, and Centennial Associations. Rev. E. F. Baber has accepted the appointment, and is about entering upon his work.

Your Committee would impress the fact, that there is no more important interest to be brought before this Association than the interests of the State Mission Board. It lies at the foundation of all other interests, and upon its success depends in large measure the progress of all other enterprises in which we are engaged. No other agency within our reach can so well arouse the many idle Churches to a sense of their obligations, and move them to earnest, efficient support of the various interests in which we are concerned. Contributions made to this work aid in the support of every denominational enterprise.

We recommend the work of evangelism in the State to your heartiest, most prayerful sympathy, and to your most liberal pecuniary support.

W. C. CLEVELAND, Chairman.

Resolved, That this Association heartily endorses the action of our Convention in reference to the evangelization of the State, and we hereby pledge ourselves to co-operate with the State Mission Board in the prosecution of this much needed work.

APPENDIX C—REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Education trains the mind to vigorous thought, fits it for the investigation of truth, enlarges the circle of spiritual life, and multiplies the means for Christian activity and usefulness. He who willfully throws away his own opportunities for culture, robs God and man of the more extended influence for good which he might have exerted. He who neglects to give his children the best education within their reach, denies them their natural right, narrows the sphere of their intellectual activity, and abridges, by just so much, the effectiveness of that life-work which every one owes to his "day and generation." Parents may well ponder their responsibility in this matter.

The cause of Education is interwoven with the vital interests of all classes. There is no department of Christian activity in behalf of which we may more fitly consult together, or more worthily unite our earnest labors. How and where shall we educate our youth? is the question of the times. In this question, all Baptists should feel the deepest concern. They are a peculiar people. An intense individualism characterizes them. They claim absolute freedom of thought, choice and action, subject only to the restriction that they must not trespass upon the recognized rights of others. These characteristics have left a distinct and deep impress upon their religious doctrines, life and worship. The same characteristics affect their educational policy. Any system of training which tends to sink the individual, they condemn. Hence, they have generally opposed education *by* the State, as well as religion *from* the State. Both tend to the destruction of individual liberty: the one, liberty of thought and action; the other, liberty of conscience. If the State prescribe and control religion, there is no true soul freedom; if the State prescribe and control education, full freedom of thought cannot be a lasting heritage. If the State may impose the teachers, and the teachers may dictate the books, who can forecast the direful results, when rulers, teachers, and books shall become infidel or atheistic.

That such results have not universally followed, is due, not to the exceptional operation of the law of cause and effect, but to the existence of counteracting influences. Denominational schools and

denominational literature have been the counteracting influences in our land. The good they have accomplished can never be fully estimated.

Baptists especially have received the idea of such schools as a legacy from their fathers. Long ago, amid oppressions and struggles, in deep thoughtfulness and consecrated piety, with convictions as clear and strong, then only prophetic, as they are now with us, when fulfilled and vindicated, long ago, our fathers laid the foundations of our denominational education,—a broad and massive edifice, whose future glory they but dimly saw. Now, its majestic strength and fair proportions are the joy and praise of our entire brotherhood.

The various denominational enterprises of our people should claim our loyalty and support, not only on the ground of personal pride and duty, but on the higher ground of duty to God, duty to truth, duty to society, and duty to the generations yet to come.

Our Institutions have been eminently blessed in the past. They are still worthy of our confidence and support. Withdraw from them our sons and daughters, desert them, disown them, and thus destroy them, and we destroy the very citadel of our strength; our “glory will be turned into shame.” We should stand by these Institutions with a devotion of love and a fixedness of purpose that absolutely nothing shall lessen or change.

Respectfully submitted,

L. R. GWALTNEY, Chairman.

The following resolution, presented by Dr. Cleveland, was adopted, and ordered to be appended to the report.

Resolved, That the success of our Conventional Institutions of Education, the Howard and the Judson, calls for devout gratitude to God, and that we cordially commend these noble agencies to the prayers and patronage of all who are interested in the progress of the truth, the welfare of the churches of Christ, and the thorough instruction of the rising generation.

APPENDIX D—REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board was organized for the purpose of supplying destitute places in the Southern States and Territories of the West with the Gospel.

For years it labored most efficiently in this direction. In late years, owing to the poverty of our people, and the indifference of the churches, and the burden of debt thrown upon it by the defunct Indian and Sabbath School Boards, it has been crippled in its efforts.

In the mean time, each of the States having thought best to attempt to supply its own destitution, there is but little of its original work left for it to do.

Now, with its debts all removed, and the important work among the Indians in its hands, this Board ought to begin a new career of usefulness. This work among the Indians calls loudly upon our Churches for their earnest prayer, sympathy and co-operation.

If schools could be established among these people, presided over by Christian teachers, they would soon become civilized and useful citizens. The establishment of these schools is the most promising work of the Board, at a time when our Government by its continual encroachments, its violation of treaties and its fierce warfare, *seems* bent on their extermination, it becomes us as Christians to send them the message from the Prince of Peace.

The representatives of false religion are taking advantage of the Indians craving for the blessings, civilizations to advance their own interests. When the Indian asks for bread, they give him a stone—when he asks for a fish, they give him a scorpion.

It becomes us as Baptists to give to the Indians, the pure Gospel. If a Church or individual wants to leave a lasting monument to the glory of Almighty God, let them attempt by their contributions to aid in the establishment of these schools.

We commend this work to the prayerful consideration of the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

APPENDIX E—REPORT 'ON THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

Your Committee beg leave to report :

That the paper has never been in a better condition than at present. We are gratified to say that it is growing in interest, in circulation, and in favor with the people.

It is devoted to the advancement of Christ's cause in general, and more especially to the development, encouragement and edification of our own Churches in Alabama. And for this reason, it commends itself, above all other religious periodicals, to the co-operation and support of our people.

Your Committee recommend that the pastors of this Association be requested to press the claims of the paper upon the people of their respective charges until it shall find its way into every family within our bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. BISHOP, Chairman.

APPENDIX F—REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed at your last session to take charge of the funds subscribed for ministerial education, and to appoint a suitable person to enjoy the benefit of the same, report:

That very soon after the Association adjourned, Bro. John D. Moseley, a member of Providence Church, having been licensed (set apart) by his Church to preach, was selected and sent to Howard College. Brother Moseley remained at the Howard until about the middle of January, 1877, when he withdrew.

The Committee, through the Chairman, afterward endeavored to secure another young brother, who accepted the appointment, but could not go to the Howard, because of business engagements, from which he could not be released.

Of the amount subscribed, Brother James M. Burns paid his contribution (\$15 00) fifteen dollars, to the support of young Bro. Huckabee. Two of the subscribers, each contributing ten dollars, have not paid their contributions. They are, however, very reliable for their contracts, and will no doubt pay.

The Committee submits the following statement :

Dr.

To amount subscribed.....\$125 00

Cr.

By amount	paid J. D. Moseley.....	\$65 00	
" "	not collected	20 00	
" "	paid by Bro. Burns to Brother		
	Huckabee	15 00	
" "	balance on hand.....	25 00	
		————	\$125 00

According to the vouchers herewith subscribed, there is due the fund from Howard

College	\$9 62	
A note of Bro. Moseley.....	4 75	
	————	\$14 37

This balance was occasioned by the withdrawal of Bro. Moseley before the end of the month of January.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. WARD, Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

The report on Sunday Schools, which was read by me before the last meeting of the Cahaba Association, was retained in the office of the ALABAMA BAPTIST for revision, and was destroyed by the late fire. The report was of such nature—giving actual facts and figures gathered from the letters sent up by the Churches—that it is impossible to reproduce it.

JNO. L. WEST, Chairman.

APPENDIX II—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Letters and Documents, beg leave to report that after an examination of the letters of the several Churches they find no queries sent up to the Association from any of the Churches. Ephesus Church has licensed Bro. J. L. Nickols to preach the Gospel among the Churches. We find no preacher ordained into the ministry reported by any of the Churches.

One Church has been organized since the last session of this body, on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in August (1877), known as the Oak Grove Church, and bearing petitionary letter by representatives, for membership into the Cahaba Baptist Association. We find some of the Churches without pastorate charge.

We would most respectfully urge the churches to give a fuller report of the statistics that the same may be printed in the Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. S. FORD,	} Committee.
A. J. WOFFORD,	
B. F. MOSELY,	

APPENDIX I—TREASURER'S REPORT.

Alfred Lawson, Treasurer,

1876. In account with the Cahaba Baptist Association.

Oct. 16.	To amount received for Home Missions,	\$22 85
" "	" " Foreign "	20 95
" "	" " State Board,	44 45
" "	" Associational purposes and Minutes,	57 65
		<hr/>
		\$145 90

1876. Cr.

Oct. 17.	By J. B. Lovelace, Treas. Home Board,	\$22 85
" "	" T. M. Bailey, Financial Secretary,	44 45
" "	" H. A. Tupper, Secretary F. M. B.	20 95
" 18.	" S. C. Tramill, Clerk C. A.	57 65
		<hr/>
		\$145 90

Respectfully submitted Oct. 14, 1876,

ALFRED LAWSON, Treasurer.

APPENDIX J--REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report :

Received in Cash for State Mission Board,.....	72 15
“ “ “ “ Home Mission Board,.....	33 25
“ “ “ “ Foreign Mission Board,.....	21 50
“ “ “ “ Minutes and Associational purposes,	60 00
“ “ “ “ Mrs. Summers,	16 75
Total.....	\$203 55

We recommend that the Clerk be allowed twenty dollars for services.

Respectfully submitted,

D. S. HOGUE,
LEWIS JOHNSON, } Committee,
JAMES WATERS, }

NOTE.--The amounts contributed by the different Churches will be found in the table of statistics of Churches. The amounts sent up for the poor by Fellowship (five dollars) Antioch (three dollars). Churches were contributed for Sister Summers.

FORM OF STATISTICAL LETTER.

The _____ Church to the Cahaba Baptist Association sendeth Christian salutation :

Dear Brethren : We send as delegates to aid you in your deliberations our brethren _____

We have for pastor _____ Our statistics are as follows:

Membership last reported.....	
Since received by letter	
Since restored.....	
Number deceased	
Number excluded	
Number dismissed by letter	
Number of white members	
Number of colored members	
Total number of members	
Number of Sunday School scholars.....	
Number copies religious papers taken.....	
Whole amount of money collected	
Amount paid Pastor (salary).....	
Amount paid Church expenses	
Amount paid for Home Missions	
Amount paid for State Missions	
Amount paid for Foreign Missions	
Amount paid for Education	
Amount paid for the poor	
Amount paid for Minutes and Associational purposes	
Preaching how often and when	
Prayer meeting how often.....	
Average attendance.....	
Sunday School Expenses	
Sunday School collection.....	
Sunday School Superintendent	
Pastor	
Pastor's Post Office.....	
Clerk	
Clerk's Post Office.....	

Remark

..... Moderator.
....., Clerk.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	Membership Last Reported.	Since Received by Baptism.	Since Received by Letter.	Since Restored.	Number Deceased.	Number Excluded.	Number Dismissed by Letter.	Number of White Members.	Number of Colored Members.	Total Number of Members.	Number of Scholars in Sunday School.	Number Copies Religious Papers Taken.	Whole Amount of Money Collected.	Amount Paid Pastor (Salary.)	Amount Paid for Church Expenses.	Amount Paid for Home Missions.	Amount Paid for State Missions.	Amount Paid for Foreign Missions.	Amount Paid for Education.	Amount Paid for the Poor.	Amount Paid for Minutes and Associational Purposes.	Sunday School Expenses.	Sunday School Collection.
Antioch	37	3	1		1			40		40		5		100.00						3.00	2.00		
Bethel	116							116		116													
Bethlehem	131	2					2	37	32	129	40	10		150.00							3.00	3.60	3.60
Concord	103	24	2	1	2	7	3	117	117	230	30										1.80		
Ephesus	103	10	2		1	4	4	109	109	219	20			150.00	10.00	50	10.00			5.00	3.00	6.00	6.00
Fellowship	102							102		102													
Friendship	58							58		58													
Hopewell	74						1	73	73	146	43		253.10	195.00		24.60	10.00		10.00		3.00	3.00	10.30
Macdonia	61				2		4	55	55	110											2.00		
Mars Hill	56				1		3	52	52	104											1.50		
Medline	96	33	11	1	2	19	3	120	120	240											2.50		
Mt. Pleasant	38						3	33	33	66											1.60		
Mt. Hebron	22	4						26	26	52											2.00		
Mt. Zion	46	6		1			1	52	52	104				135.00							3.00		
Mt. Gilgad	36			1		3		35	35	70											3.00		
Macon	18		2					22	22	44			618.30	279.00	142.75	7.00	18.00		169.00		3.00	3.00	
New Hope	93		1		1		5	88	88	176											1.60		
Newbern	21	3					1	23	23	46			13.00	9.00	1.50	1.50				1.50	1.50		
Ocmulgee	84	24		3			3	80	27	107				125.00							3.00		
Oak Grove								13	13	26											2.00		
Pine Flat	47							44	44	88											2.00		
Pleasant Hill	55	4	5		2		1	62	62	124			223.50	60.00	159.50					2.00	2.00	1.00	
Pisgah	128							128	128	256											1.50		
Providence	92	1					1	91	91	182			485.55	350.00	50.00	14.50	37.05	11.00	10.00		3.00	3.00	7.00
Sardis	88						1	87	87	174											3.00		
Silona	314	1	5		2	1	20	297	297	594			3986.79	2500.00	177.98	126.46	32.00	67.95		53.25	3.00	49.50	59.13
Selma	104	1	32		27	5	165	165	165	330			2488.47	1626.12	632.20	60.95	100.00			44.20	3.00	35.00	
Union	69	1						70	70	140				100.00		3.50					3.00		
	2146	108	71	7	16	65	77	1810	64	2099	531	461	\$708.71	\$5879.12	\$1163.92	\$239.01	\$223.55	\$84.25	\$189.00	\$105.45	\$60.00	\$90.30	\$86.23

NOTE.—The number dropped from the Church Rolls are included in the list of Excluded.

Churches, Pastors, Clerks, Preaching.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	PREACHING.
Antioch	Hale.....	W A Bishop ..	Carthage.....	Jno T Lat mer..	Greensboro ..	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Bethel.....	Perry.....	W N Huckabee.	Pinetucky.....	R S Ham.....	Pinetucky.....
Bethlehem.....	Perry.....	W N Wilkes.....	Perryville.....	S A Bolling.....	Radfordville.....	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Concord	Perry.....	Carter Tubb.....	Ironville.....	T J Warrell.....	Marion.....	3d, 4th & 5th Sabbaths & Saturday before 3d
Ephesus	Perry.....	W A Bishop.....	Carthage.....	Jno A Gray.....	Morgan Springs	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Fellowship	Perry.....	J M Hicks.....	Randolph.....	Isam Pounds.....	Pinetucky.....
Friendship.....	Perry.....	Jno S Ford.....	Marion.....	S A Lide.....	Marion.....	1st & 3d Sabbaths and Saturday before 1st
Hopewell.....	Perry.....	Jno S Ford.....	Acron.....	W R Stivender.	Havana.....	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Macedonia.....	Hale.....	A J Kynard.....	Marion.....	S H Ford.....	Marion.....	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Mars Hill.....	Perry.....	A M Perry.....	Centerville.....	T A Sanders.....	Pinetucky.....	1st Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Medline.....	Perry.....	W A Bishop.....	Carthage.....	J J Mills.....	Carthage.....	3d Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Mt. Pleasant.....	Hale.....	John S Ford.....	Acron.....	P T Harris.....	Acron.....	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Mt. Hebron.....	Hale.....	J U Wilkes.....	Perryville.....	J N C Brown.....	Centerville.....	3d Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Mt. Zion.....	Bibb.....	A M Perry.....	Centerville.....	W T Mc'raw.....	Centerville.....	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Mt. Gillead.....	Bibb.....	L L Fox.....	McKinley.....	J T Collins.....	Macon Station.....	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Macon.....	Hale.....	Carter Tubb.....	Irontville.....	Jas S Davis.....	Havana.....	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
New Hope.....	Hale.....	J L West.....	Marion.....	R D Faggard.....	Newbern.....	2nd Sabbath and Saturday before.....
New-bern.....	Hale.....	I U Wilkes.....	Perryville.....	C C Smith.....	Summerfield.....	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Ocmulgee.....	Perry.....	L B Gwaltney.....	Marion.....	W P Mc'Callum.	Marion Junction	3d Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Oak Grove.....	Dallas.....	A J Kynard.....	Marion.....	E P George.....	Perryville.....	2nd & 3d Sabbaths and Saturday before 3d
Pine Flat.....	Perry.....	W O Stevens.....	Havana.....	J B Ford.....	Carthage.....	4th Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Pleasant Hill.....	Hale.....	I U Wilkes.....	Perryville.....	Lewis Johnson.	Perryville.....	3d Sabbath and Saturday before.....
Providence.....	Dallas.....	W B Chumpton.	Cambridge.....	W D Washburn.	Jericho.....	2nd & 4th Sabbaths and Saturday before 4th
Sardis	Perry.....	E T Winkler.....	Marion.....	J L Wyatt.....	Marion.....	Conference Saturday before 1st Sabbath
Siloam.....	Perry.....	W C Cleveland.	Selma.....	H A Haralson.....	Selma.....	Twice each Sabbath.....
Selma	Dallas.....	Jno S Ford.....	Acron.....	T J Kinnaird.....	Greensboro.....	Twice each Sabbath.....
Union	Hale.....					3d Sabbath and Saturday before.....

NOTE.—Bethel, Bethlehem and Friendship Churches were not represented by letters nor Messengers Pisgah by Delegates without letters. We enter as reported last Session.

ORDAINED MINISTERS OF THE CAHABA ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	DIVISION.
John Dennis,	Cambridge,	Dallas,	1st District.
W. B. Crumpton,	Cambridge,	Dallas,	1st District.
W. C. Cleveland,	Selma,	Dallas,	1st District.
I. U. Wilkes,	Perryville,	Perry,	1st District.
T. L. Vaughan,	Perryville,	Perry,	1st District.
E. T. Winkler,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
L. R. Gwaltney,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
M. T. Sumner,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
W. H. McIntosh,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
T. M. Bailey,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
J. L. West,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
A. J. Kynard,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
J. S. Ford,	Acron Station,	Hale,	3rd District.
W. A. Bishop,	Carthage,	Hale,	3rd District.
R. S. Jones,	Greensboro,	Hale,	3rd District.
J. B. Poole,	Havana,	Hale,	3rd District.
M. E. Buck,	Carthage,	Hale,	3rd District.
W. O. Stevens,	Havana,	Hale,	3rd District.
A. M. Perry,	Centreville,	Bibb,	4th District.
J. M. Heard,	Perryville,	Perry,	4th District.
Carter Tubbs,	Ironville,	Perry,	4th District.
W. N. Huckabee,	Pinetucky,	Perry,	4th District.

LICENSED PREACHERS OF THE CAHABA ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	DIVISION.
I. B. Vaiden,	Marion,	Perry,	2nd District.
J. L. Nickols,	Pinetucky,	Perry,	4th District.

LIST OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS AT HOWARD COLLEGE.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
W. N. Huckabee,	—	Perry,	Alabama.
J. D. Cook,	—	Choctaw,	Alabama.
D. B. Jay,	—	Barbour,	Alabama.
P. T. Hale,	—	Barbour,	Alabama.
J. L. Tompson,	—	Coosa,	Alabama.
W. A. Whittle,	—	Wilcox,	Alabama.
E. C. Plumb,	—	Lowndes,	Alabama.
M. M. Wood,	—	Jefferson,	Alabama.
J. M. Green,	—	Pike,	Alabama.

SABBATH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, CHURCHES, NO. S. S. SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS.

Superintendent.	Post Office.	Coun- ty.	Church.	No. Scholars.	No. Teachers
J. S. Bolling,	Perryville,	Perry,	Concord,	40
David Gentry,)	Pinetucky,	Perry,	Ephesus,	30
W. J. Hughey,)					
Joel Holifield,	Marion,	Perry,	Fellowship,	25
S. A. Lide,	Marion,	Perry,	Hopewell,	54	.. 6
A. J. Kynard,	Marion,	Perry,	Mars Hill,	25
A. D. Lawhorn,	Macon Stao'n.	Hale,	Macon,	25
	Sunmerfield,	Dallas,	Ocmulgee,	—
Josiah Alexander,	Perryville,	Perry,	Pine Flat,	23
	Cambridge,	Dallas,	Providence	25
Porter King,	Marion,	Perry,	Siloam,	263
Jon. Haralson,	Selma,	Dallas,	Selma,	100

BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH.

AS ADOPTED BY THE CANARA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

I. Of the Scriptures.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. Of the True God.—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death. Being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V. Of Justification.—That the great gospel blessing which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification; that justification consists in the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is

bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we may have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every blessing for time and eternity.

VI. Of Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he originates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. Of the Perseverance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability, which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI.—Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistle of Timothy and Titus.

XII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—The Christian baptism is, the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its purifying power; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII. Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. Of Civil Government.—The civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things op-

posed to the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1.—The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 2.—The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Cahaba Baptist Association, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe upon their internal rights, but shall merely be considered as an advisory council in all the matters relative to their internal concerns. Nevertheless it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have uniform rules of procedure; for example, if one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction; and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the cases before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in the work; and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association, to be acted upon according to its merits. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of church discipline, found in the 10th chapter of the gospel by Matthew, and other parts of the Scriptures which define the nature of offences and manner of bringing offenders to trial.

Article 3.—The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, and deceased, since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Article 4.—Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: Churches composed of fifty members, or under, are entitled to send three messengers, and for every fifty members that may be added one additional messenger. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state the reason to the next session.

Article 5.—New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon examination, they be found worthy and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messengers the right hand, in token of Christian fellowship.

Article. 6.—The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

Article 7.—At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from among the messengers present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall also be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings.

Article 8.—The Association shall have power to exclude, from her union, any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the gospel.

Article 9.—The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session.

Article 10.—Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the Minutes.

Article 11.—Querries which immediately concern the general union of the churches sent by a particular church, or introduced by motion, shall be taken up and declared on as soon as practicable.

Article 12.—Any church in our union having a member who is judged to possess talents for the ministry, shall call from two or more churches the aid of their ministers, and select members of the Laity, who, in conjunction with the churches, shall examine the candidate, and if deemed qualified, may license him to preach the gospel among the churches at discretion, which shall be reported to the next Association and entered on the Minutes.

Article 13.—Any church in our union having a preacher, whom she deems worthy of ordination shall call a Presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work and all the Presbyteries in ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the abstract of faith adopted by this Association.

Article 14.—Any church in our union having a minister who may fall into disorder, and who, after all due labor with him, shall continue refractory, should consider him a fit subject for excommunication, shall have power to exclude from fellowship, and it shall be the duty of that church, in such a case, to call a Presbytery, and through them demand his credentials. If such a minister return and give satisfaction, the church shall have power to restore him to fellowship as a private member; but if she wish him restored to the exercise of his ministerial functions, she shall again call a Presbytery, who shall be discretionally authorized to renew his credentials; which, if renewed, shall be reported at the next meeting of this Association, and entered upon the Minutes.

Article 15.—The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the Committee on Finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order. They shall make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

Article 16.—It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the Printed Minutes of every session of this body.

Article 17.—The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

Article 18.—The Minutes of this Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

Article 19.—The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Article 20.—Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of this Association, where a majority of the members shall decide it necessary.

—THE—

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